

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A pharmaceutical preparation exhibiting excellent gastrointestinal absorbability comprising:

(a) a compound recognized by a proton-coupled transporter, and

(b) a pH-sensitive polymer,

wherein the pH-sensitive polymer is present in an amount sufficient to impart to the gastrointestinal tract a pH at which the proton-coupled transporter optimally functions for cellular uptake of the compound,

the pH-sensitive polymer being at least one species selected from the group consisting of dried methacrylic acid copolymer, methacrylic acid copolymer LD, methacrylic acid copolymer L, methacrylic acid copolymer S, polyacrylic acid, maleic acid/n-alkyl vinyl ether copolymer, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose acetate succinate, and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose phthalate, and

the amount of the pH-sensitive polymer being 5 to 40 wt % based on the weight of the entire pharmaceutical preparation.

2. (previously presented): The pharmaceutical preparation according to Claim 1, wherein the proton-coupled transporter is an influx transporter expressed in a small-intestinal epithelial cell.

3. (previously presented): The pharmaceutical preparation according to Claim 2, wherein the proton-coupled transporter is -a member selected from the group consisting of a peptide transporter, monocarboxylic acid transporter, and D-cycloserine-transporting amino acid transporter.

4. (previously presented): The pharmaceutical preparation according to Claim 3, wherein the proton-coupled transporter is a peptide transporter.

5. (currently amended): The pharmaceutical preparation according to Claim 4, wherein the compound recognized by the peptide transporter is at least one member selected from the group consisting of a peptide, a β -lactam antibiotic, an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor, an antiviral agent, an antitumor agent, and an ω -amino carboxylic acid.

6. (previously presented): The pharmaceutical preparation according to Claim 3, wherein the proton-coupled transporter is a monocarboxylic acid transporter.

7. (previously presented): The pharmaceutical preparation according to Claim 6, wherein the compound recognized by the monocarboxylic acid transporter is at least one member selected from the group consisting of lactic acid, pyruvic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, glycolic acid, nicotinic acid, salicylic acid, benzoic acid, p-aminobenzoic acid, and foscarnet.

8. (previously presented): The pharmaceutical preparation according to Claim 3, wherein the proton-coupled transporter is an amino acid transporter transporting D-cycloserine.

9. (currently amended): The pharmaceutical preparation according to Claim 8, wherein the compound recognized by the amino acid transporter transporting D-cycloserine is at least one member selected from the group consisting of L-alanine, ~~(β~~-alanine, L-proline, and ~~glyein~~ glycine.

10. -13. (canceled).

14. (previously presented): The pharmaceutical preparation according to Claim 1, wherein said preparation is suitable for oral administration.

15-16. (canceled).

17. (currently amended): A pharmaceutical preparation for enhancing gastrointestinal absorbability of a compound recognized by a proton-coupled transporter, the pharmaceutical preparation comprising:

(a) a compound recognized by a proton-coupled transporter; and

(b) a pH-sensitive polymer in an amount sufficient for the gastrointestinal tract to acquire a pH at which the proton-coupled transporter optimally transports the compound into a cell,

the pH-sensitive polymer being at least one species selected from the group consisting of dried methacrylic acid copolymer, methacrylic acid copolymer LD, methacrylic acid copolymer

L, methacrylic acid copolymer S, polyacrylic acid, maleic acid/n-alkyl vinyl ether copolymer, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose acetate succinate, and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose phthalate, and

the amount of the pH-sensitive polymer being 5 to 40 wt% based on the weight of the entire pharmaceutical preparation.

18-21. (canceled).

22. (new): The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 1 or 17, wherein the amount of the pH-sensitive polymer is 10 to 20 wt% based on the weight of the entire pharmaceutical preparation.